

April 22, 2005

ANNETTE REMSHARD
1705 N. MCMILLAN LANE
GREENACRES WA 99016

Subject: Complaint filed against Ozzie Knezovich - PDC Case No. 04-458

Dear Ms. Remshard:

The Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) staff has completed its investigation of your complaint received September 6, 2002 filed against Ozzie Knezovich alleging that he used the public resources and facilities of Spokane County to support candidates for public office during the 2002 elections.

Investigation of your complaint was suspended pending the outcome of a Permanent Injunction that had been issued in King County concerning the Commission's application of RCW 42.17.130. The investigation was restarted April 28, 2004 following the State Supreme Court's reversal of the Permanent Injunction. Your complaint was reviewed in light of the following statute:

RCW 42.17.130 prohibits elected officials, their employees, and persons appointed to or employed by a public office or agency from using or authorizing the use of public facilities, directly or indirectly, for the purpose of assisting a candidate's campaign or for the promotion of, or opposition to, any ballot proposition.

You alleged that Mr. Knezovich, President of the Spokane County Deputy Sheriff's Association, as a Spokane County Deputy Sheriff used the public resources and facilities of Spokane County to support candidates for Spokane Valley City Council during the 2002 election cycle by listing his work address and telephone number for the Spokane County Sheriff's Office in a political advertisement sponsored by the Spokane County Deputy Sheriff's Association.

We found that:

- Ozzie Knezovich is a Spokane County Deputy Sheriff and President of the Spokane County Deputy Sheriff's Association (SCDSA).
- On August 29 and September 12, 2002, SCDSA paid for two ads that ran in local newspapers. The ads endorsed six candidates for the Spokane Valley City Council in the 2002 election including Deanna Hormann, Steve Taylor, Mike DeVleming, Dick Collins, Richard Munson, and Mike Flanigan.

- The ads included the following sponsor identification: **NOTICE TO VOTERS**” – This advertisement is not authorized or approved by any candidate. It is paid for by the Spokane County Deputy Sheriff’s Association, Ozzie Knezovich (President), 1100 W. Mallon Ave. Spokane, WA 99260 509-477-3144.”
- The address and phone number listed in the advertisement were for Mr. Knezovich’s Spokane County Sheriff’s Office at the County Public Safety Building. Mr. Knezovich stated that when he placed the ad he was asked for an address and phone number. He said he used the address and phone number for the Spokane County Sheriff’s Office because he could not remember the SCDSA address and cell phone number.
- Mr. Knezovich stated that he did not realize the address and phone number he had given would be used in the ad. He said he believed it was simply a contact number for the newspaper. He stated that inclusion of his office address and telephone number was done without any thought of conducting illegal campaign activities.
- Mr. Knezovich stated that none of the ads were produced using public funds or equipment, and said that he did not receive or make any calls related to the ad from his office.

Other than providing his Spokane County address and telephone number to the newspaper when he placed the ad for the Spokane County Deputy Sheriff’s Association, no evidence was provided or found that Mr. Knezovich used Spokane County resources in additional ways to assist candidates’ campaigns. Given the limited use of public facilities and that he did not receive or make any calls related to the ad from his office, no enforcement is warranted in this case.

After a careful review of the alleged violations and relevant facts, we have concluded our investigation and, with the concurrence of the Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, I am dismissing your complaint against Ozzie Knezovich.

If you have questions, please contact Phil Stutzman, Director of Compliance, at (360) 664-8853 or toll free at 1-877-601-2828.

Sincerely,

Vicki Rippie
Executive Director

c: Ozzie Knezovich